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career. This would be a long study and not at all an easy one. We cannot, however, let the occasion of his retirement pass without a word in reference to that aspect of his administration which bears directly upon the subject for whose promotion this paper stands.

The policy which Mr. Cleveland has followed in the foreign relations of the government, whatever criticism may be given upon certain aspects of it, has been on the whole the true American policy of peacefulness, friendly neutrality and non-interference. He has pursued this policy in an independent and original way, but with what has seemed to us thorough conscientiousness, honesty and devotion to fairness and justice, as well as to high ideals of international obligation.

Even his course in reference to Hawaii, which was the subject of so much aspersion and ridicule, has certainly done no harm either to that country or this. If annexation should ever come, it will certainly come under much more favorable circumstances and with much greater understanding of the subject by our people, because of the policy of delay and consideration which he forced the country to pursue. His course in reference to the influence of the United States in bringing about the deposition of the Queen of Hawaii was one dictated, we have not the least doubt, by a genuine spirit of fairness and not in the least by a truckling to monarchical institutions, which was absurdly charged against him.

The past eighteen months have been a period of exceptional perplexity and delicacy in our foreign relations, and of unusual excitement and restlessness at home in respect to them. During this time the Armenian troubles, the Venezuelan and the Cuban difficulties have followed closely one upon another, or rather been all on hand together. It seems almost miraculous that, with the clamoring of jingo politicians, the vehement denunciations of religious enthusiasts and would-be knight-errants of liberty, and the legitimate demands of offended right and justice, we have passed this trying period without a rupture somewhere. That we have done so is due to the retiring president's independence, thorough honesty and patient adherence to what he believed to be right, regardless of praise or blame. A purely party president, Democrat or Republican, or one unsettled in his own convictions and easily moved by public clamor, would almost certainly have brought us into open conflict with Turkey, Great Britain, and later with Spain, with all the desolating evils which wars with these countries would have involved. How easy it would have been for Mr. Cleveland, after the message of December 17 1895, to have taken advantage of the flame of war-feeling which he had, it seems unintentionally, kindled, and hurried the country into war with Great Britain, if he had chosen to follow a less wise and conciliatory course in choosing the members of the Venezuela Commission!

The same candidness and straightforwardness which had brought on the trouble, has delivered the country from its possible evil results and brought about greater unity between the two nations than has ever existed before.

The possible disasters which might have come from all these international complications President Cleveland has not only averted, but he has finally brought the country as a whole to acquiesce in the wisdom and rightness of the policy of patient forbearance and considerateness which he has followed, and it is now understood that, as a matter of course, his successor will follow in the same path, the only one worthy of a man exalted to the chief magistracy of a great nation of peace-loving citizens. The country may have suffered wrong in particular cases, but how much wiser and more Christian to have patiently endured this than to have run the risk and incurred the guilt of bringing upon us the unnumbered woes and sufferings and desolations of war. Our credit for peaceful attention to our own business has suffered enough as things have gone, but if all the clamors which have been heard for vengeance upon Turkey and Spain, and for kicking England summarily out of the New World, had been heeded, our national reputation for peacefulness, fairness and good sense would have been utterly gone and our power to promote the Christian progress of the world ruined.

President Cleveland has deserved and will carry with him into private life the sincere respect and high regard of all the friends of peace, regardless of party, and they will wish him yet many years of life in which to serve his country and humanity in the effective ways that will always be open to him.

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#### ENGLISH TEACHING OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

The United States Commissioner of Education, in his Report for 1894-95, just out, has incorporated an interesting chapter on English methods of teaching American history. The chapter is No. XLIV of the Report, and contains extracts from twenty-four books of English history used in the schools of the lower grades. These histories were collected by Mr. Samuel Plimsoll, well known for his philanthropic efforts in behalf of sailors, with a view to show the better spirit found in the English school histories compared with our own. Mr. Plimsoll, during the last two years has been making special effort, along with many others, to promote greater good feeling between the United States and Great Britain. In pursuance of this purpose he has been making an inquiry into the method and spirit of history-teaching in the elementary schools of the two countries. While on a visit to this country a year ago he made a special examination of the history books used in the schools of the United States, and was very much struck with the dislike of England exhibited in them, and sure to be imbibed from them by the boys and girls in the schools.

This characteristic of our history text-books has often been pointed out and deplored by those who have felt that the causes of animosity between the two countries ought to be removed, and the old grudges forgotten. But up to the present time only small progress has been made in the rewriting of Anglo-American history for the school text-books from a more pacific and Christian standpoint. We have alluded to the subject in former editorials and pointed out what has been done and ought to be done.

We are not at all surprised that progress in this direction has been slow. It is a much more difficult task than it would at first thought appear to be. We doubt if Mr. Plimsoll or any other Englishman really comprehends the difficulty confronting an American historian who undertakes to present our historic relations with Great Britain in a way not to inculcate dislike but respect and friendliness. Nearly ten years of our history since the Declaration of Independence, seven of them the period of the founding of the nation, were spent in war with Great Britain, to say nothing of the wrongs done us by the British Government at other critical periods. This is no inconsiderable portion of our entire history of 120 years, and occupies necessarily a large space in the history books. On the British side, it is a very inconsiderable portion of their long history of more than a thousand years, and occupies, necessarily, but small space in any school history. Again, it is a very easy thing for English historians to admit and even assert strongly that King George and his Ministers were not only foolish but wicked in their treatment of the American colonies. American historians find little if anything of this kind to say about our Government in the time of Washington. All this makes it much easier for the English people of this day to cherish proper fraternal feelings towards the United States than it is for the people of this country to hold such sentiments with regard to Great Britain. The spirit of forgiveness and brotherhood has to be much deeper on this side, and the historians have to go beneath the surface of the history to find grounds for inculcating through their books the spirit of respect and love towards Great Britain. There are such grounds, many of them; and they ought to be sought out and brought to the front. But we shall have to have a new generation of historians, brought up on the new and more Christian ideas of our time, before we can have our history presented in a truly civilizing spirit to our boys and girls. Meanwhile the English historians and friends of peace can help us along in this direction by writing and speaking in even stronger condemnation than Mr. Plimsoll's extracts do of the conduct of King George and his Ministry, and of the doings of some later Ministries in their relations to the United States. Many of them are doing this in a splendid way, and this is having a powerful effect on the spirit of our people. This is infinitely more effective than scolding us for having bad histories.

Dr. Harris has done a great service to American education by placing extracts from these twenty-four English school histories in his Report, and we hope that the careful perusal of them by the many teachers into whose hands the Report may fall may do much to encourage a more discriminating and Christian teaching of Anglo-American history by the instructors in history, even with the books now in their hands.

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#### CRETE AND GREECE.

All eyes have been turned to the island of Crete since the dispatch of the Greek torpedo flotilla on the 10th ult., in command of Prince George, ostensibly to prevent the landing of Turkish troops ordered to the island from Smyrna to aid in suppressing the insurrection.

The trouble in Crete is of long standing. The people in the island are largely of Greek descent, about three-fourths of the three hundred thousand now constituting the population being not only of Greek blood but of Greek Christian faith. The Mussulman inhabitants are Moslem by profession rather than by birth. Ever since the conquest and control of the island by Turkey conflicts between the two classes of religionists have been frequent, the Moslems being chiefly, though by no means wholly, at fault until more recently.

Last summer under pressure from the powers the Porte gave Crete a Christian governor, a Roman Catholic, however, instead of a Greek Christian, and promised to preserve order without sending more Turkish troops. But the promised reforms were delayed, after the Turkish fashion. The old gendarmerie was done away, but the promised new one, to be composed of foreigners, was not created. During all this time disturbances have taken place, naturally. The Christian population has been in insurrection against the Moslems and Moslem rule. The insurrection has been fomented from Greece, and in its later stages has taken on the form of a movement for union with Greece, where the island naturally belongs. It must not be supposed that this movement is the outgrowth of recent Turkish cruelties so much as of those of the past. It is even more the result of the unnatural connection of Crete with the Ottoman empire, and of Greek dislike for everything Turkish. For this reason the Cretan question will never be settled so long as this unnatural connection exists.

The recent attack on Canea, which brought on the crisis, was distinctly an act of Christian aggression. The Turks seem to have been beaten and driven back. Then the insurgents declared for union with Greece and Greece came promptly to their support.

This action of King George took the powers almost wholly by surprise and quite took away their breath. It has been surmised that he acted with the connivance of